Curtis, Lionel

July 11, 1919

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Lionel Curtis, Esq.,

London, England.

My dear Curtis:

In all probability there will be a vacancy of an Assistant Professorship in our Department of Political Economy before long, and we have our eye open as to possible men for the position. The new position might be that of a lecturer at $2000 or even an Assistant Professor at $2500. I do not see any one on this side at present though some one may turn up, and if one who knows our Canadian conditions may be found he would probably suit our position better than a man from the Old Country, especially as we have already three from the Old Country now on the staff. Do you happen to know any promising young man who might be available? Character should be a strong point, and a well-balanced judgment, particularly at this time. You know how the minds of the people are restless at present and will probably remain so for some years, and sanity and high character are more than ever essential for a teacher of economy. You know us so well, and you know so many of the best people in Oxford and Cambridge that perhaps you could put us in the way of getting information, though I have nothing final yet to go upon in regard to our own vacancy.

I imagine from what I hear about England that in spite of our many difficulties in Canada we are not facing quite so serious a situation as you have. I know that our

Government is very anxious about the financial situation, but the business men whom I meet believe that if our people will get to work we can tide over our time of difficulty. Unfortunately now the prospects for the wheat crop are very bad. Just when we were hoping that a large harvest would help in the matter of the cost of living we are face to face, at any rate a large section of Western Canada, with almost a total failure of the crop. I am told that cattle will have to be driven to new feeding grounds. The Hon. J. A. Calder told me last week in Ottawa that the situation was very serious. Of course, often when the final returns come in they are better than the prognostications, and if rains come there might be an improvement. In Ontario and the East generally and even in Manitoba the outlook is good on the whole.

We are finishing a very busy session. We have had fully four hundred returned men for whom special classes of all kinds have been arranged. They have done exceptionally well.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.